



## A Word from the President

We kicked-off the 2024 calendar year with our flagship event - the AARES 2024 Conference. Held in Canberra, the 68th AARES Annual Conference marked our re-emergence into normalcy, hosting our first face-to-face gathering in Australia since the onset of COVID. Evidenced by the substantial turnout of attendees, both domestic and international, the exceptional standard of presentations, the overwhelming demand for pre-conference workshops (all of which were fully booked), and the positive feedback garnered, it's evident that our conference was a resounding success. Congratulations to the Local Organising Committee from the AARES ACT Branch for their excellent work in hosting the conference. Our next AARES Conference will be held in Brisbane during 11-14 February 2025. Keep an eye out on LinkedIn, Twitter, Facebook, and your emails for more announcements about the next conference. We hope to see you there.



We also have a new [Strategic Plan](#) which will guide our operations for the next five year (2024-2028). The AARES Board will be working closely with Branch representatives to operationalise the Strategic Plan over the next five years. One of our Strategic activities is to reconnect with national and international societies focusing on applied agricultural and environmental economics. If you're a student or an early career researcher/profession, keep an eye out for travel grant announcements from AARES.

Operationally, our Board convened for the second time this year on February 23rd at the AARES Incoming Board meeting. I would like to thank the returning Board members for their continued dedication to AARES and extend a warm welcome to our new Board members, as well as those assuming new roles within the Board. Our newly appointed Board members include Jeff Connor (President-elect), Helena Clayton (Secretary), and Fiona Dempster (Manager of Promotions and Development). Our returning Board members include Nikki Dumbrell (formerly Manager of Promotions and Development, now Early Career Research from the ACT Branch), Tim Capon (formerly ACT Branch President now ACT Branch Councillor), and Thilak Mallawaarachchi (formerly AARES President, now Immediate Past-President). I would like to express my gratitude to two members leaving the Board: Frank Scrimgeour for his service in the role of Immediate Past-President and Mikayla Bruce for her contributions as the ACT Branch Councillor.

**Sorada Tapsuwan**

AARES President

In Celebration

## GRDC Seed of Light Award

Ross Kingwell's outstanding contribution to Australia's grains industry has been recognised with the Seed of Light Award. He is the first agricultural economist in Australia to receive this award.

[Read the full UWA news release here.](#)

Congratulations, Ross!



## Upcoming Opportunities

### AARES Social Media Volunteers

Are you passionate about social media and making a difference? We're looking for volunteers to help us spread the word about AARES! We're looking for a social media volunteer to create engaging content, connect with our online community, and support campaigns and initiatives. If you're ready to use your social media skills and join us in our mission, we would love to have you on board!

Expressions of interest close **8 March 2024**.

To learn more, please email [Nikki Dumbrell](#) for more information.

### AARES Nomination Committee Members

Our Immediate-Past President is inviting members interested in serving in this year's Nominations Committee for Distinguished Fellows, Life Members & President Elect to come forward.

If you are interested in serving on the Committee, or would like more information, please email [Thilak Mallawaarachchi](mailto:Thilak.Mallawaarachchi).

## **Job Opening: CSIRO Postdoctoral Fellowship: Economics of Bioengineering**

3-year position based out of Brisbane, QLD or Canberra, ACT

Sustainability transition from fossil-fuels to a bio-enabled economy (use of biological resources) calls for a deep transformation of the economy, the society, and the technological systems. However, the economic drivers for the sustainability transition in a bio-enabled economy remain unstudied. The CERC Fellow will be part of the Advanced Engineering Biology (AEB) Future Science Platform (Interdisciplinary Decision Making Theme) and contribute to the understanding of the techno-institutional complexities associated with sustainability transitions in circular bioeconomy.

Applications close **11 March 2024**.

[Click here for the position description.](#)

## **Job Opening: Research Officer - Senior Research Officer - Economics of Nature-Based Solutions to Flooding**

A multidisciplinary team from across the ANU is working with local governments, communities, and other partners in 10 locations across Eastern Australia to develop Nature-based Solutions to flood resilience. A key output will be a series of national guidelines for Nature-based Solutions and flood resilience.

The team seeks an economist to do cost benefit analysis of Nature-based Solutions for flood mitigation and co-benefits.

Applications close **12 March 2024**.

[Click here for the position description.](#) For more information, email [Roslyn Prinsley](mailto:Roslyn.Prinsley).

## AARES 2024 Conference Highlights

The 68th Annual AARES Conference was held at the Australian National University's Kambri precinct in Canberra. Opening remarks from the Hon Dr Andrew Leigh MP on Artificial Intelligence and economics set the scene for the conference theme, "Grand challenges at the frontier of applied economics".

This year marked a return to an in-person format for the annual conference with over 300 delegates registered for each day of the main conference. Over 150 people also participated in pre-conference workshops on a range of policy and research topics, including [the economic implications of Australia's net zero trajectory](#), natural capital, and new software for real options analysis.

The Invited Speaker program featured keynote presentations on agricultural and environmental research and policy perspectives from Prof John Quiggin ([hear key points in a radio interview here](#)), Prof John Thwaites, Dr Pablo Juliano, Prof Jonathan Rushton ([catch up with Johnathon's interview on the ABC Victorian Country Hour](#) from 36 mins 20 sec), and from Dr Jenny Gordon, who gave the Keith Campbell Distinguished Lecture. Invited Sessions showcased work from the ACIAR, the Agricultural & Applied Economics Association (AAEA), and the European Association of Agricultural Economists (EAAE). Lunchtime sessions included a 3-minute thesis competition chaired by John Rolfe, "[A history of AARES](#)" by [Bill Malcolm](#) and [David Pannell](#), and an opportunity to meet the editors of the Australian Journal of Agricultural and Resource Economics (AJARE) was hosted by David Stern and Yu Sheng.

The 2024 conference dinner was held at the National Arboretum Village Centre, with its impressive views of Canberra. Christian Creed and Emily Dahl served as MCs for the evening, with our Immediate Past President, Frank Scrimgeour, presiding over the AARES annual awards. Live music was played by the Baker Boys band, which inspired a surprising number of attendees to dance. Thursday evening, an informal social networking event was held at The Jetty, on the shores of Lake Burley Griffin.

I would like to thank the members of the Local Organising Committee (LOC) for working hard for more than a year to make the conference a success, including Mikayla Bruce, Tim Capon, Helena Clayton, Christian Creed, Emily Dahl, Nikki Dumbrell, Abebayehu Geffersa, Walter Okelo, Sorada Tapsuwan, and Tony Webster.

On behalf of the LOC, I would like to thank the sponsors who made this conference viable, including the CSIRO, Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research (ACIAR), the Grains Research & Development Corporation (GRDC), the Centre for International Economics (The CIE), the Crawford School of Public Policy at ANU, Researchers in Agriculture for International Development (RAID), the

Australian Government Productivity Commission, and the Crawford Fund. We would also like to thank the student volunteers who helped keep the event on track.

Lastly, we would like to thank the convenors of special sessions and other events, the session chairs, and all the presenters, who came together to make this year's annual conference a lively and engaging event.

**Todd Sanderson**

Chair, Local Organising Committee

AARES 2024

### 2024 Conference Sponsors



Conference Dinner





AARES President Sorada Tapsuwan with EAAE invited speakers



## Celebration of AARES Award Winners

### Undergraduate Prizes

**Shireen Lynn Baguley**, Charles Sturt University

*Assessment of consumer preferences on the consumption of low and no alcohol beverages in Australia*

**Eden Bishop**, The University of Adelaide

*The short run and long run impacts of climate on Australian household energy demand*

### Conference Awards

First Time Presenter's Award

**Iqbal Saleh Sitompul**, The University of Queensland

Best Poster Award

**Jack Hetherington**, The University of Adelaide

Best Poster Award – People's Choice

**Rida Akzar**, The University of Adelaide

Best Three-Minute Thesis (3MT) Award

Nimeshika Aloysius, Central Queensland University

## Academic Awards

Outstanding Postgraduate Dissertation Award

**Mara Hammerle**, Australian National University

*Essays on Household Energy Poverty and Australia's Renewable Energy Transition*

2023 AARES Symposium at the AAEA Meeting

Organiser: **Thilak Mallawaarachchi**, The University of Queensland

*Reducing food loss and waste through policy-induced behavioural change*

Quality of Research Discovery Award – Early to Mid-Career Researchers

**Curtis Rollins**, University of Western Australia

C. Rollins (2023) Investigating cost non-attendance as a driver of inflated welfare estimates in mixed-logit models, *Journal of Agricultural Economics*, Volume 74, Issue 3, pp. 921-934. DOI: 10.1111/1477-9552.12558

Quality of Research Discovery Award

**Phil Pardey**, University of California, Davis and **Julian Alston**, University of Minnesota

P.G. Pardey and J.M. Alston (2021) Unpacking the Agricultural Black Box: The Rise and Fall of American Farm Productivity Growth, *The Journal of Economic History*, Volume 81, Issue 1, pp. 114-155. DOI: 10.1017/S0022050720000649

Quality of Research Communication Award – Early to Mid-Career Researcher

**Claire Doll**, The University of Western Australia

For her work on the economics of public open spaces under water scarcity.

Quality of Research Communication Award

**Sarah Wheeler, Ying Xu, Alec Zuo, Juliane Haensch and Constantin Seidl**, The University of Adelaide

For their work on identifying water-related economic values of the Murray-Darling Basin and rating the quality of water economic studies.

Henry Schapper Fellowship

**Scott Swinton**, Michigan State University

## Travel Awards

Heading South Award

**Shuo Wang**, University of Maryland

Heading North Award

**Dominic White**, Auckland University of Technology



Donna Brennan Award

**Disha Gupta**, Indira Gandhi Institute of Development Research

## **AJARE Awards**

Best Paper – Early Career Researcher

**Dominic White**, Auckland University of Technology, and **Niven Winchester**, Motu Economic & Public Policy Research

D. White & N. Winchester (2023) Logs or permits? Forestry land use decisions in an emissions trading scheme, Australian Journal of Agricultural and Resource Economics, Volume 67, Issue 4, pp. 558-575. DOI: 10.1111/1467-8489.12534

Best Paper

**Mark Toccock**, CSIRO Energy and University of Tasmania, **Dugald Tinch**, **Darla Hatton MacDonald**, University of Tasmania, and **John M. Rose**

M. Toccock, D. Tinch, D. Hatton MacDonald and J.M. Rose (2023) Managing the energy trilemma of reliability, affordability and renewables: Assessing consumer demands with discrete choice experiments, Australian Journal of Agricultural and Resource Economics, Volume 67, Issue 2, pp. 155–175. DOI: 10.1111/1467-8489.12509

## **Honorary Awards**

2023 AARES Distinguished Fellow

**Gavan Dwyer**, Principal Consultant, Marsden Jacob Associates

2023 Distinguished Life Member

**Terence Farrell**, Head of Economics, Grains Research and Development Corporation

## **Reflections from the 2024 Donna Brennan Award Winner**

I am extremely grateful and honored to receive the Donna Brennan International Award. The experience of attending AARES 2024 was extraordinary. I really enjoyed attending the keynote talks, special sessions and the parallel paper presentations. The conference provided me a platform to present my research and get feedback from experts in my field, and also learn about research related to environmental and resource economics, especially in the context of Australia. It gave me a great opportunity to network with other colleagues working on water issues and to informally engage with them on new research ideas and discussions

beyond work.

I am happy to share that AARES 2024 was very well organized event. I must appreciate the organizing committee for planning several social networking events which provided many instances of interactions and getting to know each other in an informal setting. I must also mention great efforts put in by them to take care of everyone's food preferences. I hope to collaborate with colleagues from Australia in the future. I would like to thank the committee members for recommending my name for the award which made it possible for me to participate in-person in this year's conference.

Overall, it was an unforgettable 4 days for me taking back with me heaps of knowledge, great memories and friends for life! AARES is a group of very friendly and supportive researchers and I hope to contribute to the society and remain associated with them for a longer time period.

**Disha Gupta**

2023 Donna Brennan Award Winner



## About the AJARE Award Winners

Two prestigious AJARE best paper awards for volume 67, published in the course of 2023 were announced at the AARES 68th Annual Conference in Canberra in early February.

The Best AJARE article award went to the paper titled 'Managing the energy trilemma of reliability, affordability and renewables: Assessing consumer demands with discrete choice experiments' published in Volume 67, Issue 2 and authored by Mark Toccock, Dugald Tinch, Darla Hatton MacDonald, and John M. Rose. In this article, the authors explore Australian household preferences for alternative electricity contracts that include investments in renewable generation, community-based energy storage, demand-side management policies, including installing smart meters, and consumption limits being imposed during peak demand. Using discrete choice experiments, the authors estimate willingness to pay and willingness to accept for these alternative contracts and find that some types of contracts have statistically larger estimates than others. This can guide policy in terms of implementation of such contracts.

The Best AJARE article by an Early Career Researcher was awarded to the paper

titled 'Logs or permits? Forestry land use decisions in an emissions trading scheme', published in Volume 67, Issue 4, authored by Dominic White (ECR) and Niven Winchester. This research uses an economy-wide model, a forestry model and land use change functions to measure the expected proportion of farmers with trees at harvesting age that will change land use from production to permanent forests in New Zealand from 2014 to 2050. Authors also estimate the impacts from conversion to permanent forest on carbon sequestration, the carbon price, gross emissions, GDP and welfare.

**Tiho Ancev**

AJARE Prize Committee

## Highlights from the 2023 Henry Schapper Fellow Visit

In February 2024 the WA Branch of AARES was thrilled to welcome Professor Scott Swinton from Michigan State University as the recipient of the 2023 Henry Schapper



Visiting Fellowship. During his time with us in WA, Scott delivered two lectures and facilitated two engaging EMCR sessions. For the Henry Schapper Fellow Public lecture, Scott presented "Precision Conservation Agriculture: Private Costs, Environmental Benefits, Potential Policy" and got us all thinking about farmer benefits and trade-offs for converting targeted sections of farmland into in-field conservation areas. His second seminar, as part of the WA AARES ARE weekly series focused on "Measuring Farmer Risk Aversion and Its Effect on Perceived Crop Yield Distribution".

Scott's visit coincided with the AARES conference in Canberra, where he participated in a special session celebrating the connections between AARES and the North American Agricultural and Applied Economics Association, of which Scott is a past president.



We thoroughly enjoyed having Scott here in WA. While his EMCR sessions on how to convince difference audiences, including policy-makers, to listen and believe your applied economics story were undoubtedly thought provoking, it was his generosity and warmth, coupled with the impromptu Friday jam session featuring guitars and singing with David Pannell on “making up the data” and being “the model of a modern ag economist”, that really made his visit a delight!



**Alaya Spencer-Cotton**  
AARES WA Branch President

## **About the 2023 AARES Distinguished Fellow: Gavan Dwyer**

Gavan Dwyer is an Associate Director of Marsden Jacob Associates and leads its Agriculture and Resource Practice. In that role Gavan has consulted to government and industries for 10 years on a wide array of issues at national, state and regional levels. He is a sought-after adviser to CEOs, Boards and the highest levels of Government on agriculture and resource economic issues and policy design.



Some areas of interest and focus have included dairy industry economics, RDE program design and performance, productivity analysis, water policy and social impact assessment and optimal design of biosecurity programs.

Prior to joining Marsden Jacobs, Gavan held senior positions in the Victorian Department of Primary Industries as Chief Economist and Executive Director of Policy Services and Natural Resource Policy. This had followed a long career in the Productivity Commission where Gavan led research in water and natural resources markets. Early in his career Gavan worked for ABARE on issues in the coal and nuclear industries.

Gavan has held a variety of positions with AARES. He is a Past President and Treasurer of AARES, was Victorian Branch President for 15 years and Federal Councillor for many years.

Gavan holds an Honours Degree in Agricultural Economics from the University of New England and a Masters Degree in Agricultural Science from the University of Melbourne.

## **About the 2023 AARES Distinguished Life Member: Terence Farrell**



Dr Terence Farrell has been a member of AARES since 1988 and he has held many roles in AARES since. He served as the New England Branch Councillor from 2008 to 2015 and served as Branch President from 2005 to 2006. Terence has contributed to the organisation of AARES annual conferences, serving in three Local Organising Committees, and on the papers committee at one conference. As AARES Federal Treasurer from 2010 to 2015, Terence managed AARES' finances, with responsibilities for five AGMs and conferences. As Federal



Treasurer, Terence worked to update the AARES constitution with Professor Bob Farquharson, including incorporating AARES at the national level, modernised AARES' banking and accounting systems, and worked with Professor Philip Pardey and Annie Hurst to update the AARES membership and conference management software.

Beyond Terence's critical roles within AARES, he has made significant contributions to the community through his career and public service in Australia as an agricultural economist. Terence has degrees in agricultural economics from the University of New England, the University of Saskatchewan, and Washington State University. Prior to joining GRDC, Terence worked with Grain Growers Ltd., taught agricultural economics at the University of New England, and worked in the NSW Department of Primary Industries. He has also consulted to various research organisations in Australia and overseas.

Since 2016, Terence has been the Head of Economics at the Grains Research and Development Corporation (GRDC). At the GRDC, Terence plays a vital role as an agricultural economist in support of the Australian grains industry through his responsibilities in international demand forecasting, investment analysis, and impact assessment. The GRDC invests in research, development, and extension (RD&E) to create enduring profitability for Australian grain growers. Terence's work helps ensure that science and new innovations developed in Australia help people work towards the common aim of increasing the world's food supply to meeting increasing demand.

At the GRDC, Terence helps support undergraduates with an interest in agriculture and economics through summer studentships. He has co-supervised PhD students and provided important inputs into other PhD students' work. In further support of agricultural economics in Australia, Terence has helped develop a network of economists working in RDC organisation and often shares and discusses methods of analysis.

Currently, as an active member of the ACT Branch of AARES, Dr Farrell continues to share his experience with his fellow agricultural and resource economists, including by providing advice and supporting researchers and professionals earlier in their careers.

**Congratulations to all AARES Awards winners that were celebrated at the 68th annual conference dinner!**

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## **Federal Executive**

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Investment Committee

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AJARE Editor

**Claire Doll**

News & Views Editor

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